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## Family Liaison Office Employment Program Staff

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## Family Liaison Office Employment Program

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## Overseas Employment Outside the U.S. Mission

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### Family Liaison Office Employment Program



*Since 1978  
Making a difference  
for the Foreign  
Service Community*

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# Job Hunting Outside the U.S. Mission

Foreign Service family members seek employment on the local economy while posted abroad to follow a career path, to broaden skills, and to take advantage of unique opportunities in a foreign country. The search for employment outside the mission may involve many different resources and be more time consuming than an equivalent stateside search. Information about the host country's economy and culture is key to a successful job search.



*Armed with host country knowledge, a portable career, and a flexible approach, you can successfully walk the tightrope of international employment!*

Family members should begin a targeted search as soon as the USG employee is approved for assignment. Whether residing in the U.S. or overseas, the spouse can contact the Family Liaison Office (FLO) and FLO's Website to access many related resources. FLO has information on the current employment setting and status of bilateral work agreements by country. The Employment Program Specialist in FLO provides post specific information on non-governmental organizations, American Chamber of Commerce offices, international and U.S. businesses.

The following is a list of useful post specific employment information resources:

Overseas Briefing Center (OBC)  
(Courses, Library, Returnee file,  
Craighead Reports)  
CLO and Administrative Officer  
Foreign Commercial Service  
Professional Associations  
U.S. Businesses  
U.S. Military  
Other Embassies  
Other Foreign Affairs Agencies  
Local Associations

Through FLO, the Overseas Briefing Center, Craighead Reports and the Internet, family members can learn about employment trends, dominant industries, and the business environment before arriving at post.

Before and/or after arrival, family members can put their new knowledge to work making contacts and building a local network through host country nationals and local residents. Family members are advised to join professional organizations and stay current on trends in their field. Networking is vital to a successful employment search.

Family members should take local tax law into account when making employment decisions. Expatriates are usually required to pay local taxes. An overview of expatriate taxation, in addition to many other practical resources, can be found in *Employment Options for the Foreign Service Family Member*, published by The Family Liaison Office.

Family members get a head start on the job search by attending one of the periodic one-day workshops co-sponsored by OBC and FLO where experienced job coaches work with groups and provide individual follow-up with clients.

The following is a list of careers that Foreign Service Spouses have found to be portable and easily transferable from post to post:

Education  
Training  
Contracting  
Consulting  
Computer Tech.  
Health Care

Interpreting/  
translating  
Administration  
Writing  
Editing  
Publishing

Freelancing  
Desktop Publishing  
Web Development

## Permission to Work

Family members who choose to work outside an official U.S. mission abroad must obtain permission, usually granted by the post Administrative Officer. The Chief of Mission has authority to deny permission if the prospective employment requires an unacceptably broad waiver of diplomatic immunity, is considered potentially harmful to U.S. interests, or has the appearance of being a conflict of interest. If denied, it must be in writing and a copy must be sent to FLO.

A family member with permission to take up employment will work with the U.S. mission Human Resources Officer to obtain a host country work permit.

**There are limitations to who is eligible to obtain work permits.** Only Eligible Family Members of diplomatic personnel on official assignment can apply. This includes spouses, unmarried children between 18 and 21, unmarried children who are full-time students between 18 and 23 and unmarried children who are physically or mentally disabled. It is important to be familiar with any existing restrictions in the bilateral work agreement or *de facto* work arrangement existing with the host country.

Happy hunting!